

#### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Original) A wound dressing material comprising a solid bioabsorbable substrate dyed with an antioxidant dyestuff.

Claim 2. (Original) A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a solid bioabsorbable material selected from the group consisting of collagens, oxidized celluloses, chitosans, galactomannans, glycosaminoglycans, polylactide/polyglycolide, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3. (Original) A wound dressing material according to claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a solid bioabsorbable material selected from the group consisting of collagens, oxidized regenerated celluloses, chitosans, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, wherein the solid bioabsorbable substrate is selected from the group consisting of woven fabrics, knitted fabrics, nonwoven fabrics, freeze-dried sponges, solvent-dried sponges and combinations thereof.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 4, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of aniline dyes, acridine dyes, thionine dyes, bis-naphthalene dyes, thiazine dyes, azo dyes, anthraquinones, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 4, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of gentian violet, aniline blue, methylene blue, crystal violet, acriflavine, 9-aminoacridine, acridine yellow, acridine orange, proflavin, quinacrine, brilliant green, trypan blue, trypan red, malachite green, azacrine, methyl violet, methyl orange, methyl yellow, ethyl violet, acid

orange, acid yellow, acid blue, acid red, thioflavin, alphazurine, indigo blue, methylene green, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is present in an amount of from about 0.2 to about 2wt.% based on the dry weight of the material.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 7, wherein the material further comprises a silver salt, whereby the dyestuff photostabilizes the silver salt.

Claim 9. (Original) A wound dressing material according to claim 8, wherein the polymeric substrate comprises an anionic polymer, and said silver salt comprises a salt of  $\text{Ag}^+$  with the anionic polymer.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to claim ~~8 or~~ 9, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01wt.% to about 5wt.% of silver, based on the dry weight of the composition.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 7, wherein the material is in sheet form.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 7, wherein the material is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 7, wherein the material has a free radical activity in the diphenylpicrylhydrazyl (DPPH) test for antioxidant activity as herein defined of at least about 15%.

Claims 14-19 (canceled)